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# Carter picks Naval Academy classmate, Turner, as central intelligence director

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Washington—President Carter yesterday chose Adm. Stansfield Turner, a Naval Academy classmate with a reputation in the military for independent, progressive stands, to be the director of central intelligence.

While Admiral Turner has been a fast-rising, controversial naval officer, there was no immediate sign that controversy would follow him to Capitol Hill and split senatorial ranks as happened with the earlier nomination of Theodore C. Sorensen.

Mr. Carter's choice of Mr. Sorensen to be intelligence director was called back in the face of Senate opposition.

Admiral Turner, 53, currently is commander of North Atlantic Treaty Organization forces on Europe's southern flank, with headquarters at Naples, Italy. His career since graduation from Annapolis in 1946 has mixed scholarship (he was a Rhodes scholar), sea command and high-level headquarters operations.

As director of central intelligence, if confirmed by the Senate, he will be head of the Central Intelligence Agency and also overseer of other foreign intelligence-gathering operations of the United States. The law allows either the director or the deputy director of CIA, but not both, to be drawn from the military.

Jody Powell, the presidential press secretary, said Mr. Carter's main reason for selecting Admiral Turner was the President's "feeling this is a person who has his complete trust." He said the two barely knew one another at the Naval Academy, where the admiral graduated 25th in his class and Mr. Carter 59th.

The President was quoted by another White House spokesman, Rex Granum, as telling his Cabinet that Admiral Turner "was so far ahead of us [at Annapolis] that we never considered him competition or even a peep, and I'm not exaggerating. I have never known a better military person."

The two became better acquainted when Mr. Carter was governor of Georgia.

Admiral Turner, a native of Chicago, described as "excited" over his new prospects, has not had direct experience as an intelligence officer.

He was, however, director of systems analysis and long-range objectives for the Navy here in 1971-1972, which meant that he was in charge of evaluating naval capabilities and of raising awkward questions for proponents of various means of meeting the Soviet sea-power threat.

In the current issue of *Foreign Affairs*, quarterly, the admiral warns against overstating Soviet power and understating American power.

A doomsday picture, convincingly drawn for a congressional budgetary committee may negatively influence other nations' perceptions of our naval effectiveness," he writes. He says a few extra ships thus won may not be adequate to over-

come the picture of weakness wrongly given.

Such analyses have not endeared Admiral Turner to every fellow admiral. "Like anybody that brilliant, he has foes as well as friends," an officer commented. Admiral Turner's tour as president of the Naval War College at Newport, R.I., was



ADM. STANSFIELD TURNER

one of his most controversial. It was cited at the White House as one of the innovative periods in his career that most recommended him for the intelligence post.

He shook up the curriculum and, with it, many a Navy traditionalist. His basic argument was that midcareer officer-students could be changed from instinctive conformists to independent thinkers in the complex national defense business. He said the bureaucracy welcomed his reforms "with the warmth of a wintry blast off Narragansett Bay."

He wanted to send back to the Navy and other services officers better equipped to choose the best courses of action when dealing with imprecise issues that bore little relation to those of their junior years.

Admiral Turner, assuming confirmation, takes over the directorship of intelligence at a time when the intelligence operatives' world is torn over as imprecise an issue as there is—what does the Soviet Union intend to do with the enormous military capability it is building?

Before he became NATO's southern flank commander, Admiral Turner had commanded the U.S. Navy's 2d Fleet in the Atlantic. He commanded a task group of the 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean at the time of the Jordan crisis in 1970.

As a Rhodes scholar at Oxford in the late 1940's, Admiral Turner took a master's degree in philosophy, politics and economics.